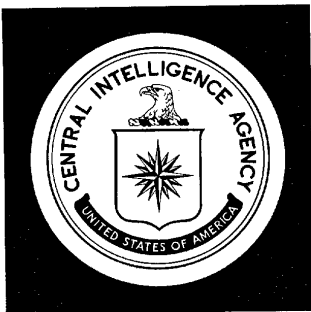


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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

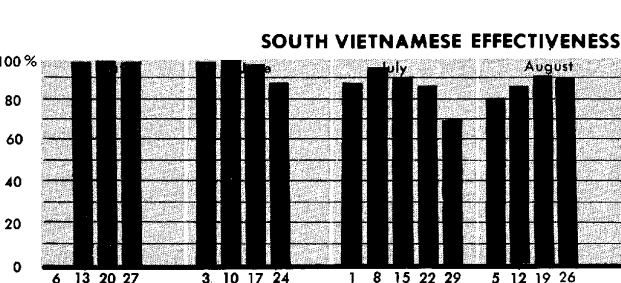
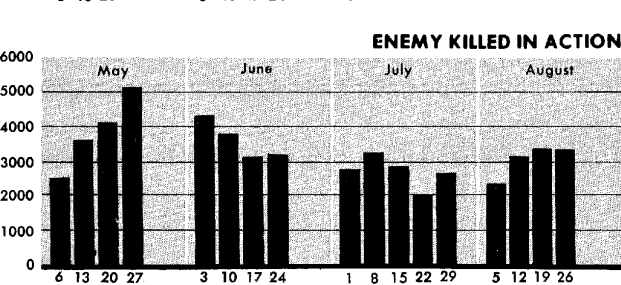
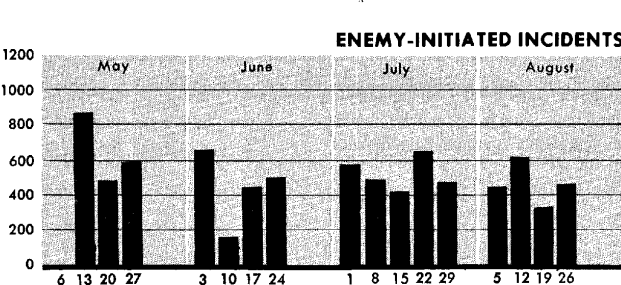
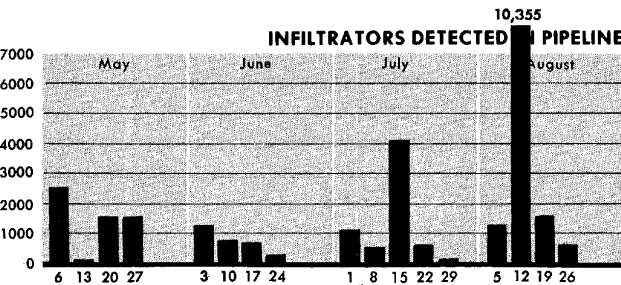
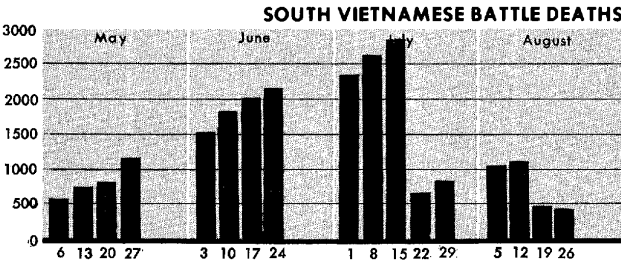
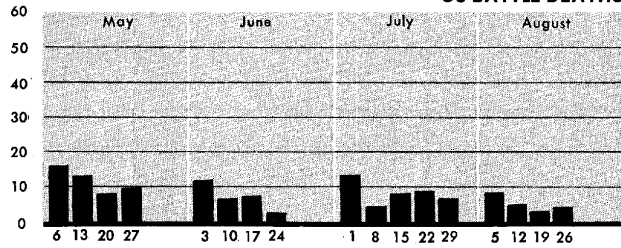
Week Ending August 26 1972

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

For the President Only

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US BATTLE DEATHS increased to 4 from last week's 3.



Approved For Release 2001/09/05 : CIA-RDP80T01719R000100120009-2

Enemy Activity

The northern provinces of MR I remained the focal point of heaviest combat in South Vietnam during the week. The Communists maintained their pressure on friendly forces north and west of Quang Tri City, while South Vietnamese Marines doggedly continued their efforts to clear the enemy from the city itself. The sustained heavy expenditure of artillery ammunition indicates quite clearly that the enemy has been able to keep at least some of his supply lines open to the Quang Tri area. To the south, in Quang Nam Province, government troops have retaken Que Son and some of the high ground overlooking this district capital, but the enemy continues to press with heavy artillery attacks against the town and the ARVN staging area to the east. The Communists are also continuing their combat preparations in the Pleiku and Kontum border area of the western highlands, and the deployment of enemy forces near the coastal plain reinforces previous evidence that the enemy plans to contest friendly gains in northeast Binh Dinh Province. In the southern portion of the country, the enemy in general maintained a low posture as government ground operations and air strikes interfered with his battlefield preparations, infiltration, and resupply activities. Communist forces in the Delta still pose a substantial threat, but friendly actions thus far seem to have preempted most of the enemy's plans to attack populated areas and cut strategic roads.

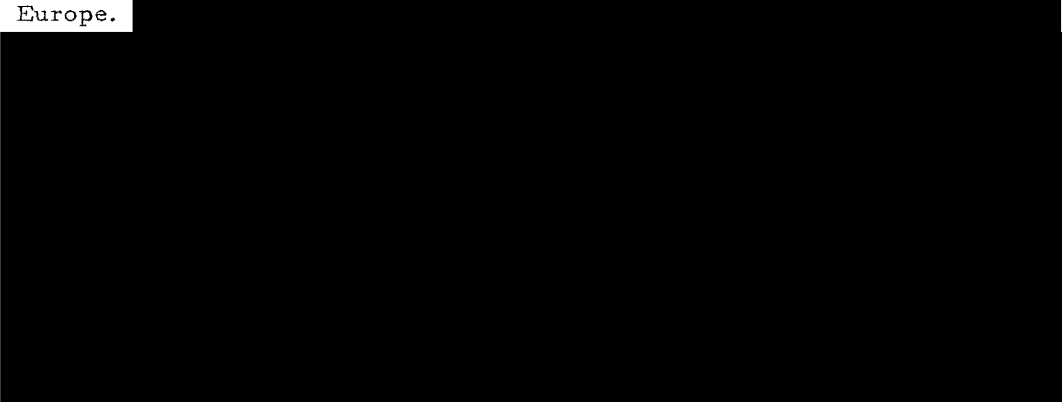
Communist military activity in Cambodia this week was largely confined to cutting vital supply arteries in widely scattered portions of the country. Route 5 (the vital rice route to Phnom Penh from Battambang Province) and Route 6 northwest of Siem Reap were both cut, and remained interdicted at week's end. The Cambodian army (FANK) had engaged in a clearing operation along Route 6 less than a week earlier. The Communists also attempted twice to cut Route 4, the direct link between Phnom Penh and the port of Kompong Som, while due south of the capital, they did cut Route 2 near the provincial capital of Takeo. Route 1 is now open to friendly traffic eastward from Phnom Penh to the recently recaptured town of Kompong Trabek, but there is no indication that Cambodian or South Vietnamese forces are planning to clear the rest of the road to the border of South Vietnam. In sum, the enemy appears to have embarked on a fairly large scale effort to interdict the major Cambodian roads and to isolate Phnom Penh from the countryside.

In Laos, the focus of action was in the Plaine des Jarres area, where General Vang Pao's wet season offensive, Operation PHOU PHIANG, suffered its first setback. On the night of 25 August, elements of a friendly task force operating south of the Plaine were hit by an estimated NVA company and forced to withdraw from their positions, leaving behind several friendly killed and an undetermined amount of equipment. The other task forces in the offensive, operating south of Bouam Long and on the northern and western edges of the Plaine, also were subjected to scattered NVA ground attacks and attacks-by-fire but were able to hold their positions. In southern Laos, the enemy continued to harass government positions near Khong Sedone, inflicting light casualties on the defenders. Northeast of Pakse, two battalions of an irregular groupe mobile were dispersed by enemy assaults over the weekend. A government operation which began on 16 August in southern Sithadone Province near the Thai border continued during the week without making much contact with the enemy.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

Personnel infiltration remained at a low level with only 454 personnel detected in the Vinh area starting their southward trip. The total number of infiltrators destined for Cambodia and South Vietnam since 1 October 1971 is now estimated at 140,300 - 142,300.

During the past week, supplies and equipment bound for North Vietnam, continued to be dispatched by rail from the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe. 25X1D1a



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The North Vietnamese are continuing to make major efforts to supply their military forces in South Vietnam's MR 1. Indicative of the scale of activity is an intercepted message of 19 August, which states that over 260 tons of food and ammunition were shipped from the Vinh area of North Vietnam into MR 1, probably in a one-day period, and that 129 tons remained to be shipped. Enemy logistics activity in Laos, however, was at a seasonal low level this past week, as mud slides, heavy rains, and equipment breakdowns continued to hamper road repair and construction.

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